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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1299 (Salas) – Petroleum Refineries: Air Monitoring Systems – Oppose

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), I respectfully inform you of our opposition to AB 1299 (Salas), a newly amended bill which would exempt petroleum refineries located in areas of the state with less than 3,000 people living within one mile of the facility from state statutory requirements to install and operate community air and fence-line monitoring systems by January 1, 2020.

Air districts have played a central role in the implementation of the petroleum refinery monitoring requirements of state law, which seeks to protect public health by measuring and recording emissions at or adjacent to refineries. This data is critical to assisting in estimating associated pollutant exposures, health risks, and in determining trends in air pollutant levels over time. We are concerned this last-minute exemption will hamper our ability to ensure we are using the best scientific data available in regulating petroleum refineries which could have negative public health impacts on nearby communities. Furthermore, this bill could result in lesser public health protections for disadvantaged and low-income communities, many of which are less densely populated. Finally, this bill sets a bad precedent that will encourage others to pursue special exemptions from state and local requirements that are intended to protect public health.

September 11, 2019

We urge you to oppose this measure when it comes before you for consideration. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 745-2330 or our Legislative Advocate, Brendan Twohig at (916) 492-9363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik C. White", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik C. White
President

Cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the California State Assembly
The Honorable Rudy Salas Jr., Assembly Member, 32nd District
Members of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
Chair and Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources